

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:RTWILLNER:JAK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, RP

SUBJECT: US-RP TAX TREATY

REF: MANILA 17128

1. ANTICIPATING REFTTEL, MR. LINA APPEARED UNEXPECTEDLY AT TREASURY DEPARTMENT DECEMBER 3RD TO DISCUSS STATUS OF PRINCIPAL TAX TREATY ISSUES AND APPROPRIATE NEXT STEPS. LINA SAID HIS EMPLOYMENT STATUS WAS UNCERTAIN AND THAT HE IS IN ANY CASE RETIRING EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31 BUT MAY STAY ON AS CONSULTANT. HE MET WITH U.S. DELEGATION (FOSTER, LERNER AND FIELD) PLUS NATHAN GORDON, DEPUTY TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TAX POLICIES.

2. DISCUSSION REVIEWED POSITIONS OF BOTH SIDES ON SHIPPING AND AIRCRAFT ARTICLE AND ON NON-DISCRIMINATION. BOTH SIDES FELT NON-DISCRIMINATION QUESTION APPEARS NEAR RESOLUTION ON BASIS OF DRAFT DISCUSSED IN SEPTEMBER (COPY POUCHED MANILA NOVEMBER 13). REGARDING SHIPPING, U.S. REPS SAID
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WE COULD CONSIDER DROPPING THIS ARTICLE DEPENDING ON RE-

SOLUTION OF OTHER OPEN ISSUES SUCH AS WITHHOLDING TAXES ON DIVIDENDS, INTERESTS AND ROYALTIES. U.S. DEL AND MR. LINA FELT ON BASIS THIS DISCUSSION THAT FURTHER MEETING WOULD BE DESIRABLE, POSSIBLY IN MARCH.

3. RECOGNIZE UNCERTAINTIES RESULTING FROM CURRENT PERSONNEL TURMOIL IN GOP. U.S. REMAINS READY TO MEET AND WOULD SUGGEST ANY TIME DURING FIRST 3 WEEKS OF MARCH 1976 WHICH MAY BE CONVENIENT TO GOP. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ADVISING WHETHER SUCH SCHEDULE MAY BE FEASIBLE OR IF WE SHOULD PLAN ON POSTPONING TALKS UNTIL LATER PERIOD. INGERSOLL

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